

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH

BY

MR. GEORGE BUSH

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

BEFORE THE

COMSTOCK CLUB

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George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, said today that the country must continue to have an intelligence system "that will provide essential national security" at the same time the nation is striving for a world of peace and trust.

In a speech before the Comstock Club in Sacramento, Mr. Bush said the nation's intelligence experts are faced with a "constant challenge, increasingly more difficult, in obtaining the necessary intelligence information on foreign countries and in making accurate evaluations."

Mr. Bush noted that the Central Intelligence Agency continues to attract young people with "character, scholarship, and ability" for employment, which, he said, "is the best guarantee that we will have an effective and capable intelligence capability in the future."

As for criticism of the CIA, Mr. Bush said the Agency had cooperated fully with Congressional investigators and he welcomed the establishment of new oversight bodies both in the Executive Branch and Congress earlier this year. "I report regularly to seven committees of Congress on our activities, so I feel there is adequate oversight of the CIA, and I welcome it."

He added that he is nevertheless concerned about any disregard of secrecy where intelligence sources and methods are concerned. "Secrecy is required to protect our methods, our American officers, and their contacts in foreign lands, and to protect our relationships with friendly foreign intelligence services," he noted.

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"When I see a book or article that deliberately exposes our operations and relations with other governments, that deliberately names our people and their contacts, I have nothing but contempt for those authors," he said. "Nothing could be more damaging to the interests of our nation and our national security."

He added: "I challenge those who claim that secrecy in intelligence work is inconsistent with freedom and democracy to give us a realistic preview of what this nation's freedom and democracy would look like if we decided to abandon this essential protection against our adversaries."

"We recognize at the same time that along with secrecy accountability is important -- accountability to the President, to the Congress, and to the people," he said. "We need to replace suspicion with trust. I want to assure you the loyal Americans in our intelligence agencies are conscious of their responsibilities, and we are indeed accountable to the elected representatives of the American people."